

The Mission of the Parks & Recreation Department is, "To provide educational programs, recreational activities, community facilities and quality parks for the enrichment of township residents."

In 2017 Parks & Recreation offered the following programs/events:

Educational Programs – 3 (Hunter Safety – 3 sessions), Reading is Our Super Power (multiple Sessions), and 1 session of First Aid/CPR/AED Training.

Events – 5 (Easter Bunny event, Ice Cream Social, Truck or Treat, Buck Pole, and Community Bowling)

Recreational Activities – 31 (Basketball, Baseball, Casino Trip, Dance, Drums Alive, Fingers and Toes Before it Snows, Fishing Contest, Flag Football, Gentle Yoga, Goodwill Tour, Ice Skating, Running Club, Scrapbooking, Scrap Around the Clock, Summer Park Series, U6 Soccer, youth Volleyball Clinic, youth YMCA Instructional Volleyball, Walk off Your Real Estate, Where is Superman?, Men's and Women's Open Gym Basketball, and Zumba.

Community Facilities – The 5 Community Facilities include the Bath Community Center, the Park Lake Beach, V. Jack Wiswasser Park, Rickard Boat Launch and James Couzens Memorial Park. The BCC was updated with a clean coat of paint by DPW.

Quality Parks – The Township Offers 4 developed parks and include V. Jack Wiswasser, the Park Lake Beach, Rickard Boat Launch, and JCMP.

New events offered in 2017 included the Bowling event, 2 Bus Trips (Fire Keepers Casino & a Goodwill Tour to Midland), and an onsite First Aid/CPR/AED Training. All 4 programs will be included in 2018 and more.

The total number of registrants in P&R programs for 2017 was over 2,300. It is important to keep in mind that the number of registrants doesn't take into consideration the number of hours spent in a program as many of them, repeating with practice and games or include multi-week sessions. Of the 2,300+ registrants, over 1500 were youth (ages 17 and under). Revenue exceeded expenses.

In 2018 we will add the following programs/events:

Educational Programs – 2 (Bike Rodeo, Car Seat Safety Inspection and an internal online First Aid/CPR/AED Certification)

Recreational Activities – 7 [Bus Trips – 3 (Local Goodwill Tour, Charlotte Frontier Days Garage Sales Tour, Grand Ledge Color Tour), Craft/Bake Sale, Aiko's Gotcha Day Paw-ty, Thriller Dance performance, a youth Entrepreneurial Fair and a Trash to Treasure event]

Community Facilities – Our Community Facilities remain the same.

Quality Parks – Quality Parks remain the same.

Parks & Recreation works very closely with DPW staff, Police, Fire, Senior Center cooks, and the Bath Community School District. Bath Schools graciously provides the use of ball fields, gyms, cafeteria's, the auditorium and parking lots for the use of sporting activities and events.

Without their unwavering commitment to Parks & Recreation, we simply would not be able to offer sporting activities and some events.

I have had the privilege of working with over 200 volunteers & sponsors in Parks & Recreation programs/events during 2017. The inclusion of volunteers is essential and very much appreciated.

meijer of Bath Township continues to be our largest financial contributor. The donation of a gift card in 2017 assisted financially with the Easter Bunny event (prizes, toys and candy), Buck Pole event (refreshments and door prizes), the Annual Fishing Contest on Park Lake (prizes), Snow Sculpture Competition (prize), Where is Spiderman? (prizes), Truck or Treat (product), and the Summer Park Series (art supplies).

In 2017, Truck or Treat was supported with less than half a cent/participant and was the largest attended with 550 youth (not to mention adults). This event provided for 35 businesses to hand out their literature and a piece of candy to each Trick or Treater. Many families in our community look forward to this event each year not to mention businesses.

Parks and Recreation Committee meetings are held with up to 7 committee members in addition to Karen Hildebrant serving as the staff member. Meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m. in the BOT room.

Monthly water samples are drawn in V. Jack Wiswasser Park by our DPW staff from April through October. These samples are taken to the DEQ Testing Lab in Lansing and results are sent to my office to be shared. For V. Jack Wiswasser Park to remain open to the public, water sample results must fall within their safe criteria guidelines for the detection levels of coliforms and bacteria. The Bacteriology test covers levels of chloride, fluoride, hardness, iron, nitrate, nitrite, sodium, and sulfate in the water.

Procedures continue to be developed and updated for Parks & Recreation programs and events.

Each program/event file will contain a Program/Event Worksheet, and an excel spreadsheet, a participant roster, registration forms, survey results and a copy of receipts.

- The Program/Event Worksheet has been developed to keep track of details. This worksheet will identify the type of program that is being offered and the benefit it will provide to the community. It allows the Director to measure, record and rate objectives, identify expenses and volunteers and also provides a space for comments/suggestions for the following year.
- Ongoing expenses are entered on an Excel Spreadsheet throughout the program/event and assists in keeping track of the program financials to ensure the program is offered within the budgeted amount.
- At the end of each program an activities roster of participants is printed for the file as mandated under the Michigan Township Record Retention process. This roster can be discarded after 4 years.
- A copy of each registration form is also contained in a program/event file.

- At the conclusion of each program, a survey is emailed to the participants. Survey answers determine a direction in the program for the following year.
- With each program come expenses. As purchases are made, information is added to the Excel Spreadsheet. Items purchased are identified with quantity, cost, and the business each purchase was made from.

The compilation all of this information determines the future of each program.

The youth Scholarship Assistance Program fund is funded through donations received specifically for this program. Donations received are deposited in the resident fund unless otherwise specified. A non-resident is a student who may not reside in Bath Twp. but attends Bath Schools or one whose parent resides in Bath Twp. but the participant does not. Each donator is sent a thank you that includes the amount of their donation.

The resident youth Scholarship Assistance Program fund had a balance of \$1,973.11 on January 1, 2017. Donations in 2017 totaled \$609.81. \$744.00 was awarded to qualifying families leaving a balance of \$1,838.92 in the resident youth Scholarship Assistance Program fund on December 31, 2017.

The non-resident youth Scholarship Assistance Program fund had a balance of \$311.33 on January 1, 2017. No donations were made to this fund however \$111.00 was awarded to qualifying families leaving a balance of \$200.33 in the non-resident youth Scholarship Assistance Program fund on December 31, 2017.

2018 Goals:

- To continue to develop new and previously identified events/programs along with Procedures.
- To assist where needed with facilities and aid in the development of parks and paths.

I truly enjoy working with so many wonderful volunteers in our community and am amazed at their generosity. However by the end of 2018 my calendar will be full. To add new programs in 2019 will mean cancelling others. The Program Worksheet, Excel Spreadsheet, and surveys will serve as a resource to aid in making these crucial decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Bath Townships Parks and Recreation Director.

Becky Goodwin, Director
Bath Twp. Parks & Recreation